Outline of the Basic Principles of Open Data (Provisional Translation)

Purpose of the Basic Principles

"The Basic Act on the Advancement of Utilizing Public and Private Sector Data "(promulgated and entered into force on December 14, 2016) contains provisions on the easy use of public and private sector data held by the State, local governments, and companies. This document sets out the basic principles for the publication and use of public data by the State, local governments, and business operators, based on the concept of Open Data by Design*, in keeping with initiatives to date.

1. Impact of Open Data

(1) Resolving social challenges and revitalizing the economy through promoting public participation and public-private partnerships
(2) More advanced and efficient public administration
(3) Increasing transparency and trust

2. Definition of Open Data

(i) Data published under a rule allowing secondary use, whether or not for commercial purposes
(ii) Data published in a machine-readable format
(iii) Data that can be used free of charge

3. Basic Rules on Open Data

(1) Scope of data published: Data held by each ministry and agency must be published as open data, in principle. Where the publication of public data is not appropriate, the reason why it cannot be published must be published, in principle and the limited publication, where data is shared between limited entities, must be actively used.
(2) Rules on secondary use of published data: The Government of Japan Standard Terms of Use will apply, in principle.
(3) Publication environment: Mechanisms allowing bulk download and provision of API must be promoted where there is thought to be a particularly high need for the data.
(4) Published data format, etc.: The data must have a structure and data format that is machine readable, in principle. Data containing information on corporations must also specify the Corporate Number.
(5) Updating of already-published data: Data must be published as swiftly as possible and updated in a timely and appropriate manner.

4. Mechanisms to Promote Publication & Utilization of Open Data

(1) Promoting Open Data by Design: Measures required from the planning and design stage of administrative procedures and information systems
(2) Reflecting user needs: Publication of a list summarizing the data held by each ministry and agency and its publication status → Identification of user needs, followed by publication in a format suited to those needs

5. Promotion Framework

(1) Help desks: General help desk (National Strategy Office of IT, Cabinet Secretariat) and help desks at each ministry and agency to be established
(2) Promotion body: The Cabinet Secretariat's National Strategy Office of IT will draft plans for government-wide open data and undertake general coordination, as well as reviewing measures and carrying out follow-up, etc.

6. Initiatives by Local Governments, Incorporated Administrative Agencies, and Companies

Local governments: Promotion in keeping with the spirit of the Public–Private Data Utilization Act and these basic guidelines.
Incorporated administrative agencies: It would be desirable for these agencies to promote initiatives compliant with the basic guidelines, since their operation, projects, and/or research are funded by the government.
Companies in the public utility sector: It would be desirable for these companies to promote initiatives in keeping with these basic guidelines and user needs, given their public nature.

*The practice of planning, developing, and operating all information systems and operational processes relating to public data on the premise of open data.